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# Advocate of Peace.

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## The Second National Peace Congress.

Before this issue of THE ADVOCATE OF PEACE reaches our readers the second National Peace Congress, which meets in Orchestra Hall, Chicago, the 3d to the 5th of this month, will have finished its labors.

This Congress marks another distinct and highly encouraging stage in the development of public interest in the cause of international peace. If fulfillment equals promise, it will be, both in numbers and in the eminence of those participating in it, a peace demonstration unsurpassed if equaled heretofore in the history of the movement. At the time of the first National Peace Congress in Carnegie Hall, New York, two years ago, it seemed as if public interest and enthusiasm could go little further. More than a thousand persons registered as members. The great hall was filled to its utmost with eager listeners session after session, and overflow and special meetings gathered in thousands of interested persons. The whole of New York was moved.

But whatever may prove to be the size and character of the Chicago meetings, the advance interest in this second Congress throughout the nation in general has been distinctly greater than that which preceded the first. Some sections of the country

which took little notice of the New York Congress have shown remarkable interest in the forthcoming one. This is particularly true of sections of the South.

No peace congress, so far as we remember, has ever before been so thoroughly and elaborately worked up as this. An office force of more than half a dozen persons, under the direction of the Committee on Organization, has been busily engaged for months, to say nothing of the service of committees. The Chicago Association of Commerce is financing the Congress, and will have entire charge of the great closing banquet at the Auditorium Hotel on the evening of the 5th. Invitations to attend or to send delegates have been most widely and painstakingly distributed. Not only the peace and arbitration societies and such other bodies as have heretofore shown interest have been invited, but invitations have gone to practically every sort of organization that has any national importance. The governors of all the States and the mayors of all important cities and towns have been requested to be represented; so have all the universities and colleges, the state departments of education, the boards of trade and chambers of commerce, business men's associations, labor and socialist organizations, religious bodies, women's societies, etc.

The response to these invitations has been large, and in many cases enthusiastic. The mayor of an Illinois town has written that he will come and bring "half his town." From present indications the attendance will be very large, running up into thousands. The national government will be represented by a member of the Cabinet. The governor of Illinois and the mayor of Chicago will welcome the delegates. Several ambassadors and ministers from abroad will be present and participate or send representatives. Prominent members of Congress are on the program. The Chicago churches are giving the Congress the consecration of a Sunday's special services at its opening.

We must, of course, leave the details of the Congress and the results of its labors for our June issue, in which we expect to give an extended account of the proceedings. What we wished to point out now was that the very organization of the Congress and the advanced interest taken in it reveal in a most striking way the enormous recent growth of public interest in the peace movement and the long, swift and sure steps with which the cause is striding forward to early and complete victory. A few years

ago no such Congress was possible. The swift years will bring a holy and beautiful time, how soon no one can yet say, when such a Congress will no longer be needed, because the evil which it is called to help eradicate will have disappeared from among men.

### A League of Peaceful Nations.

Mr. Carnegie has written to the secretary of the Chicago National Peace Congress that he will not be able to attend the Congress, as the family will then be on the way to Europe. He again expresses in his letter his conviction that armaments are a failure as a means of maintaining the peace of the world, and that a league of peaceful nations instead will have to be tried soon. He says:

"Much to our regret, we shall be in mid-ocean at the time of your second National Peace Congress, but if there is a chance to send you, by wireless, greetings and best wishes for the success of the congress, this will be done. But in any case, consider it done now.

"The present situation of the powers is the best answer to the contention that peace is to be achieved through armaments. On the contrary, they are the sure promoters of war. The other plan will have to be tried soon,—a league of peaceful nations, giving notice to those that refuse to coöperate that the time has passed when the peace of the world may be broken by one or two powers."

"The civilized powers of the world have in our day won a common right to be consulted before peace is broken."

A league of peaceful nations is certainly what the world needs to-day. But in order to accomplish what Mr. Carnegie has in view, the league would have to be composed of practically all the nations that were represented at the second Hague Conference; in other words, substantially all the nations of the world. If one should attempt to form a league of peaceful nations, consisting of four or five of the great powers usually considered civilized, it would be a very difficult task to pick out those to which the term "peaceful" would apply any more appropriately than to others. Is Great Britain, with its big-navy leaguers and panic mongers, a "peaceful nation," or Germany or France, with their huge armies? If these, with their vast armaments and mutual suspicions, are doubtful, with what other powers should one begin, if not with the small powers? These are the really peaceful nations and do not need to be compelled to keep the peace. If we place the United States at the head of such a league, which other nations shall we throw in with her? If armaments have failed to achieve peace, as they certainly have failed, shall we attempt to form a league to compel the peace of the world by selecting for the purpose the very nations where armaments bristle the

most multitudinously, and among which such persistent suspicions and dislikes prevail?

It seems to us, frankly, that it will be vastly easier to get all the nations of the world to enter into a league of peace than to induce three or four of the big and heavily-armed powers to do so. When such a world-league of peace is once formed,—and the day of its formation we do not believe to be very remote,—it will then be very easy for this great league, by a small international police or otherwise, to prevent any two members of the league from breaking the peace if they should ever be disposed to do so. This seems to us to be the normal way in which the peace of the world is to be secured, and the Hague Conferences are moving steadily, if not rapidly, in that direction.

### Eighty-First Annual Meeting of the American Peace Society.

The eighty-first annual meeting of the American Peace Society will be held in the Society's rooms, 31 Beacon Street, Boston, Thursday, May 13, at two o'clock P. M. The annual reports of the Directors and the Treasurer will be presented, officers elected for the coming year, and any other legitimate business transacted.

The annual dinner will take place the evening of the same day at six o'clock at the Twentieth Century Club Rooms, 3 Joy Street. Tickets will be \$1.00 each, and should be applied for promptly to James L. Tryon, Assistant Secretary, 31 Beacon Street, Boston. Brief addresses will be made by several well-known speakers, and it is expected that the occasion will be a most interesting and important one.

The members and friends of the Society are again urgently reminded that, in order to meet the pressing needs of its greatly enlarged work, increased funds are required. It is hoped that in connection with the annual meeting many will find it possible to send special contributions.

### Editorial Notes.

Elihu Root  
Peace Fund.

The faculty and students of Hamilton College, Utica, N. Y., were carried away with excitement and enthusiasm when President M. W. Stryker announced at the chapel exercises on April 9 that Andrew Carnegie had just given two hundred thousand dollars to the college in recognition of the services to the cause of international peace of Senator Elihu Root, an alumnus of the college. In his letter to President Stryker Mr. Carnegie wrote as follows:

"In recognition of the unique services of Elihu Root, as Secretary of State, in the cause of international peace, through arbitration treaties negotiated by him and in various other directions, I give the sum of two hundred